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SOME VIRGINIA FERNS—On November 24, 1919, at Natural Bridge, Va., I found two plants of *Asplenium ebenoides* R. R. Scott. This fern had previously been reported from this station. *Camptosorus rhizophyllus* (L.) Link was ridiculously common and there was plenty of *Asplenium parvulum* Mart. & Gal.

At Lynchburg, Va., on November 23, large, vigorous specimens of *Cheilanthes lanosa* (Michx.) Watt were readily obtained.—JOHN P. YOUNG, Washington, D. C.

SOME UNOFFICIAL FERN LORE—According to a little book on “the sentiment of flowers, or language of Flora,” adapted from the French of Madame de la Tour and published at Philadelphia in 1840, the “Fern” is the emblem of sincerity. This will seem appropriate enough to any fern-lover; but note the reason for it: “Fern often affords an agreeable seat to lovers; its ashes are used in the manufacture of glasses for the convivial party; and all the world knows that love and wine make men sincere!”

As the reference to its use in the manufacture of glass shows, the fern here meant is the European bracken. Two other ferns appear in the book. The maiden hair (*Adiantum Capillus-Veneris*?) is the emblem of discretion or secrecy because “botanists have in vain sought to find out the nature of this plant, which seems determined to conceal from their learned researches the secret of its flowers and its fruit. It confides to zephyrs alone the invisible germs of its young family.” The flowering fern (*Osmunda regalis*) symbolizes reverie and we are told that Mathiole attributes to it “the virtue of inspiring prophetic dreams.”

A bit of fern folk-lore, which has found its way into so serious and respectable a work as Mrs. Lincoln's Botany, is this: “One species in our country, *Onoclea*

sensibilis, called the sensitive fern, is said to wither on being touched by the human hand, though the touch of other substances does not produce any similar appearances."

American Fern Society

Members of the Society will hardly need to be reminded that Carl Christensen's *Index Filicum* is indispensable to students of fern classification and useful in any line of fern study. Having noted an inquiry for this work in the JOURNAL, Mr. Christensen now offers copies of it, including the Supplement, to members of the Fern Society only, for ten dollars each. This is the actual cost of the books to him. He makes only one condition—that the Society act as his agent in receiving orders and collecting payment—and asks that all orders, if possible, be sent to him at one time, in order to save trouble and expense in shipping.

Members wishing to take advantage of this generous offer should send their orders, with remittance, to the Secretary, Mr. S. H. Burnham, R. D. 2, Hudson Falls, N. Y. Deliveries will be made as soon as the books can be got from Denmark. Purchasers will be expected to pay postal charges from Hudson Falls to their places of residence.

ANNUAL REPORTS OF THE SOCIETY

Reports of officers received up to the time of going to press are printed below. The President's report is deferred until the next number in order to treat more fully the financial situation which the Society has to face owing to the greatly increased cost of publishing the JOURNAL. The Treasurer's report is also, through no fault of his, delayed.